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A tribute to Groucho  
Time Out

Special issue: 100 years of Zionism  
The Magazine

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Israeli official: Albright to visit region in two weeks  
By HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will travel to the Middle East the week after next in a bid to prod the Israeli-Palestinian peace process forward. Albright will visit Syria during her first visit to the region since assuming office, an Israeli embassy official said, adding that Jerusalem believes that she can be helpful in trying to restart talks that were suspended a year-and-a-half ago. The US will officially announce Albright's travel schedule today, he said. "It's a very good idea," the official said of Albright's stop in Damascus. "You have to do something for there to be talks. We want to speak with the Syrians. If we need the Americans' help to do so, that's okay." Albright also is expected to meet with Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But the five-day visit to the region will be dominated by meetings with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. In a major policy speech here three weeks ago, Albright said she would visit the region at the end of August if she judged there to be sufficient progress on security cooperation between Israel and the PA. At the time, she criticized the PA for withholding security cooperation as leverage and not taking sufficient steps to suppress terrorism. Albright also rebuked Israel over Har Homa, saying it was undermining mutual trust by taking steps to predetermine the outcome of final-status talks. See ALBRIGHT, Page 19

Publisher's message  
By NORMAN SPECTOR  
Regular readers of The Jerusalem Post will have noticed many changes since I asked for your views in May on what you would like to see in the paper. We have introduced a Hebrew press review. The book review section has returned to the Friday Magazine. And we have added new feature pages. The Post has expanded its coverage of news both in Israel and abroad. Our editors here in Israel select international news, sports, business and features articles from some of the finest newspapers in the world - with a particular emphasis on those about countries from which our readers have come to Israel. See PUBLISHER, Page 12

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## Israeli official: Albright to visit region in two weeks

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See ALBRIGHT, Page 19

## 4 IDF soldiers die in brush fire

### Tragedy occurs during gunbattle in southern Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Four IDF soldiers were burned to death and six others wounded — three seriously — when caught in the middle of a fierce brushfire yesterday following a gunbattle in south Lebanon.

The IDF Spokesman identified three of the soldiers killed as St.-Sgt. Oshri Schwartz, 19, from Or Akiva; St.-Sgt. Oren Zarf, 21, from Herzliya; and Sgt. Shimon Yadag, 21, from Sderot.

The wounded were treated in the field once the flames died down and rescuers could reach them. They were later evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed.

One soldier was reported in critical condition and two others were said to have sustained serious injuries. Three were moderately hurt.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine last night appointed Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, assistant to the head of operations, to investigate what happened.

The catastrophe occurred in the afternoon after a clash between troops from a Golani Brigade unit

and a squad from the Amal Shi'ite movement.

The troops had been on ambush duty in a thickly vegetated valley known as Wadi Hajjar west of Kanana village on the border of the security zone in the eastern sector.

The Golani soldiers apparently took the Amal squad by surprise and opened fire at the gunmen, killing four. A fifth squad member was reportedly wounded but managed to escape.

There were no casualties among the IDF troops as a result of the gunfight, but they stayed in place as fighting continued in the area.

Hizbullah claimed in a statement from Beirut that its fighters joined the battle later and opened fire with machine guns and RPGs.

There were no casualties among the soldiers from the gunfight, but support units were called into action and began pounding the area with mortars and artillery fire.

IAF helicopter gunships also went into action strafing the ground, apparently to ensure there were no more gunmen around.

A blaze broke out in the area and quickly spread. It is not clear whether the brush fire was caused by the "friendly fire" or by rounds fired

by gunmen.

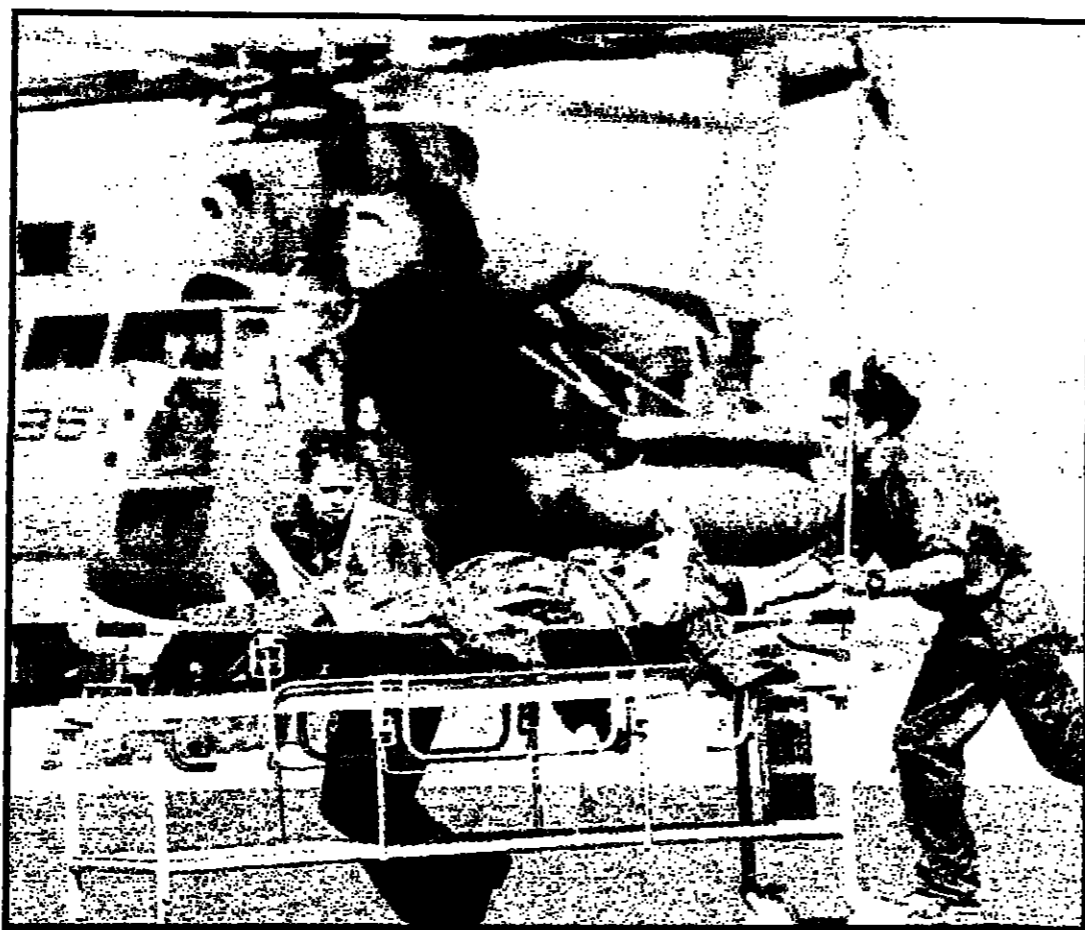
A statement by the IDF Spokesman said that "an IDF force in action in the central sector of the security zone spotted a terrorist squad in the early afternoon. The force opened fire killing four terrorists."

"During the clash there was light arms fire and fire from helicopter gunships. In the area of the clash a brushfire erupted as a result of the shooting and heavy winds propelled the fire towards the IDF force. The soldiers detected the approaching fire and tried to extricate themselves but the fire caught up with them and caused the death of four soldiers, and six were injured," the statement said.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said the brushfire was apparently caused by artillery fire.

It is reported that the fire broke out as a result of IDF fire. It said that the blaze spread quickly engulfing four soldiers, who were killed, and then setting off ammunition they were carrying, seriously injuring two other soldiers.

See SOLDIERS, Page 15



IDF medical personnel evacuate a soldier who was injured in yesterday's brush fire in southern Lebanon in which four soldiers were killed. (Israel Sun)

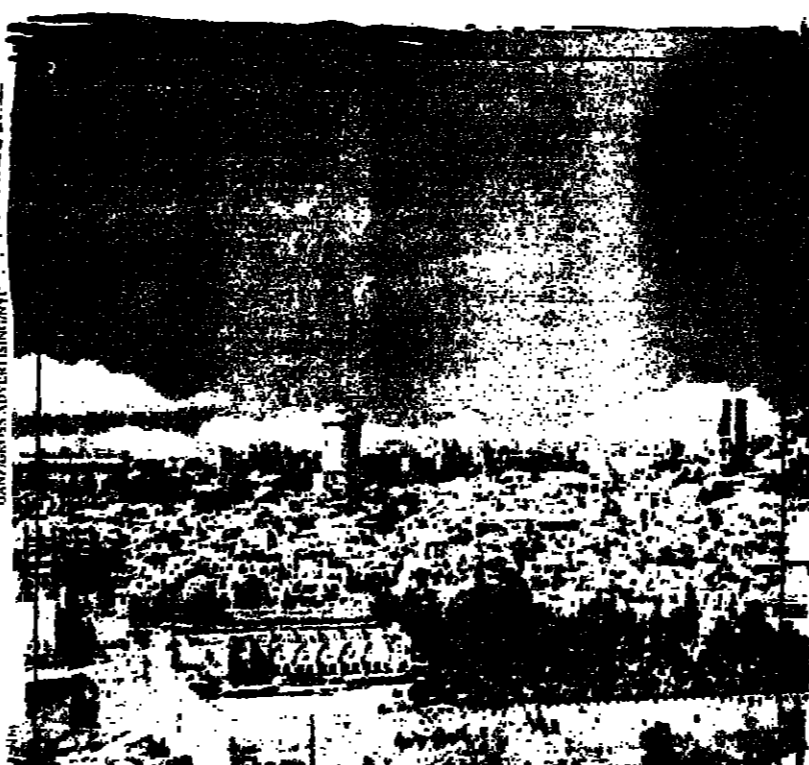
## Hospital records back Levine-Yemeni mother connection

By LARRY DERFNER

Hospital records from 1949-50 indicate that Talia Levine was "misplaced" by hospital and immigration authorities, which is why she and her biological mother were separated until now, said the investigator who studied her case 30 years ago for a government-appointed inquiry commission into the Children of Yemen. Ami Hovav, staff investigator for the

Bahoul-Minkovsky Commission in 1967-68 and the Shalgi Commission in 1988-94, also said he is convinced by the DNA test and other evidence that Levine is in fact the biological daughter of Margalit Omessi, a Yemenite immigrant who "lost" her infant daughter in the Rosh Ha'ayin transit camp in 1949. Doubts about Levine's identity were raised at Wednesday's hearing of the Cohen Commission.

News in Focus, Page 7



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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

# Golan Druse convinced future is with Syria

Neither the arrest nor violent reaction to the arrest of Alham Naif Abu Salah, a Druse woman from the Golan village of Majdal Shams, accused of "harming the security of the state," should come as much of a shock to anyone in Israel.

Abu Salah who was taken into custody on Tuesday is not the first Golan Druse to be arrested for alleged anti-Israeli actions. The protests staged in Majdal Shams against her being held, are also anything but rare.

"There are many precedents," said Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University political science professor who has studied Israel's Druse population. The Golan Druse "are convinced that their future is with Syria," he said.

Ben-Dor added that Golan Druse espionage against Israel, or overt pro-Syrian activity, was unheard of until 1978, when Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David accords.

"Up until then there was an affection for Israel," Ben-Dor said. But once the Golan Druse saw that Israel handed the Sinai to Egypt for a peace treaty, they became convinced that their futures would eventually be in Syrian, not Israeli, hands.

"They read the papers just like you do," Ben-Dor said. He noted a report in a Hebrew newspaper yesterday that the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Americans in 1994 he was willing to discuss a total Israeli withdrawal from the strategic heights.

"The Golan Druse have investments in Syria," Ben-Dor said. "They have family in Syria, they believe that their future will be as part of Syria."

And if that is not enough incentive to engage in anti-Israeli activity, the Syrians have their own not-so-gentle means of persuasion. Golan Druse students, some of whom study in universities in Damascus, come into contact with Syrian security personnel who put pressure on them to get involved in anti-Israel activities, Ben-Dor said.



Police take Alham Naif Abu Salah to Haifa District Court yesterday, where her remand was extended until Sunday. She is suspected of spying on Israel for Syria.

Abu Salah studied psychology at Damascus University, and returned home a few months ago for summer vacation. In other cases, according to Ben-Dor, Syrian authorities extort relatives living in Syria to win over potential agents from the Israeli side of the Golan.

Sometimes, he said, the anti-Israel activity is done against the person's will, but not always. The Golan Druse have their share of gripes with Israel, including the feeling that they are not getting their fair share of resources, and their view of Israel as an occupying power on the Golan.

Each year demonstrations, which often turn violent, are held in Majdal Shams, usually on Syrian Independence Day, and on February 14, to commemorate the 1982 strike.

# Court rejects Salah appeal

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel has set the Golan alight and anything can happen, even an intifada, a brother of the woman arrested this week on suspicion of harming the security of the State, declared yesterday.

Jamil Abu Salah spoke outside the Haifa District Court building after the court rejected an appeal to either release his sister or ease the conditions of her detention.

The court upheld the Acre Magistrate's Court's decision that Alham Naif Abu Salah, 30, of Majdal Shams, be remanded until Sunday. Judge Haim Pizam also ruled in favor of a petition from journalists for permission to publish the accusations against Abu Salah, providing there were no details that could harm the security of the State.

Abu Salah is suspected of spying and of having been in contact with a foreign agent. Her family has rejected the allegations, charging that her arrest was politically motivated.

Abu Salah herself was not present at the hearing. She remained in a separate room nearby because of an order preventing her from meeting with her lawyer, Nabih Khanjar.

Khanjar said there was a great deal of disappointment the court's decision and that he would submit a petition to the Supreme Court to be allowed to meet with his client.

Her father was allowed into the court building and stood on a bench for over two hours waiting to catch a glimpse of his daughter, but she was not brought out of the room.

Abu Salah, a psychology student at Damascus University, was arrested earlier this week at her home in the Druse village in the Golan, where she had returned for the summer vacation. She was due to continue her studies after the break, along with several hundred other Golan Heights Druse who are studying in Syria.

"I am part of the population on the Golan. Alham is my sister, but she is also the daughter of all the residents. All of them will decide what to do, not just me," said Jamil Abu Salah. "It will be stormy on the Golan and there could even be an intifada. We have been quiet, but when they hurt us, we have our methods to hit back."

Scores of Druse dignitaries from the Golan waited outside the court building with Abu Salah's relatives during the hearing.

"We have never expected anything good from the Israeli government. We came here convinced that Alham would be remanded," Jamil Abu Salah said after the hearing. "We came to show our support for Alham and so that all the government will know that we are Syrians and that even the arrest of Alham will not change anything."

"We have always been and will continue to be Syrians and the Golan is Syrian."

A large force of police was on duty around the court building yesterday, but there were no disturbances. Police remained on standby in the Druse villages on the Golan in view of the heightened tension in the area.

# Rabinovich concerned over lack of progress with Syria

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel's former ambassador to the US Prof. Itamar Rabinovich expressed concern yesterday over the deadlock in the peace talks between Israel and Syria.

"I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic, but I am concerned about the trend of developments," said Rabinovich, who led Israel's delegation in negotiations with the Syrians under the former government.

"It may seem banal, but it is also self-evident that if there is no political prospect the danger of war increases," Rabinovich said.

He maintained that Syria still favored the peace option as the best means for attaining its goals.

"I would say that the Syrians are working on two tracks," Rabinovich said. "I think they prefer peace, but at the same time they are building their war-like option."

Rabinovich maintained that Syrian President Hafez Assad had twice missed the opportunity to reach an agreement with Israel.

On both occasions the stumbling block was Assad's refusal to accept Israel's terms for peace, including full normalization, open borders and security arrangements.

"Assad could not have made a deal on his terms, but he could have made a deal on terms that by all accounts would have been reasonable," Rabinovich said.

"The main problem was that Assad was not willing to give and take. He came basically with a 'take it, or leave it' proposition - that he was willing to make peace, but only on his conditions."

"He insisted that the cost was fixed - a full withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, border. He made some movement over time on his terms, but certainly not enough to meet our terms."

"Had he wanted to make a deal on middle ground, on terms that would have been acceptable to Israel, he could have done so, but he didn't and therefore, he missed out twice."

Rabinovich confirmed reports that former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had "deposited" with then-US Secretary of State Warren Christopher a verbal agreement in principle to discuss Syria's demands for a withdrawal to the 1967 lines.

This deposit, however, was conditional on Syria's acceptance of Israel's peace package, including security arrangements and the type of peace Israel envisaged.

"The Syrians have claimed for almost a year now that Israel under

Rabin had committed itself to this kind of withdrawal. We denied that claim at the time and we deny it now," said Rabinovich.

"There is one very powerful argument to support our claim and that is the fact that no agreement was reached, even though the Syrians maintain that they had obtained what they wanted."

"The point is that the issue [of possible withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, lines] was never discussed directly between Israel and Syria because it was linked to a whole package of Israel's terms which the Syrians never accepted," Rabinovich added.

Michal Yudebman adds: Labor leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that Rabin did not agree to withdraw to the 1967 borders, but tried to set the issues for negotiation over a peace agreement

Commotion not motion, Rabinovich op-ed, Page 4

with the Syrians.

"I was sent by Rabin to Washington for talks with the Syrian chief of staff a few months after the date mentioned in [an article in yesterday's] *Ha'aretz*, and received no briefing concerning such a stand [agreement to discuss withdrawal to the 1967 borders]," Barak said. "The Syrians were never given a statement in advance that we would withdraw to the lines of June 1967. Had such a statement been given, we would have been already in the midst of negotiations."

"At the most, Rabin gave the Americans a statement about what kind of things he would be willing to discuss if and when the Syrians enter into negotiations," Barak said.

"Our position was that only after we see what the Syrians are willing to agree to concerning the Jordan's sources, terrorism, Lebanon, security arrangements, normalization, economic cooperation and other things, would we estimate how big a concession we could make in the Golan," he noted.

Barak said the position Rabin took vis-a-vis the Syrians was a responsible move, but it was taken three-quarters of a year after Rabin knew there was no way to resume the talks with the Syrians.

"That's why he started the negotiations on the Oslo agreement, months before the date of his reported talks with Christopher, and transferred the weight to the Palestinian issue," Barak said.

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Foreign benefits

MARK A. HELLER

Palestinian Police Chief Ghazi Jabali continues to make news. Several weeks ago, he was accused of inciting against Israel and sending policemen under his command to attack Jewish settlements, and Israel publicly demanded that he be fired and extradited for trial. This week, it was reported that Jabali was suspected by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service of extortion, but rather than being charged, he is being considered for a diplomatic posting in Russia or Romania.

Such stories need to be taken with a large grain of salt. The media may be incorrectly reporting what they have learned, or they may be accurately reporting disinformation fed to them by interested sources. If so, it would not be the first time that a newspaper got things wrong.

**Arafat might send Ghazi Jabali to Moscow. Some Israeli officials might also benefit from some mid-career training abroad.**

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat can partly respond to Israeli demands without seeming to do so. The second is that after running a penny-ante protection racket for the last few years in the West Bank and Gaza, Jabali may spend the next few years in Moscow, where he can learn to do things on a much bigger scale. This raises some interesting possibilities. If Jabali does establish some kind of precedent, then other Palestinian officials can follow in his footsteps and take advantage of a diplomatic sojourn abroad in order to learn how to improve their performance.

OF COURSE, the idea of using diplomatic assignments for professional development should not remain a Palestinian monopoly. Indeed, this is one area where Israel could profit greatly by

drawing on Palestinian example. Imagine, for instance, the result if the vehicle license examiners could study business ethics during an assignment in Indonesia or if the engineers who built the little bridge for the Maccabiah games used a posting in Chernobyl to learn how to build big structures. And what about the medical staff at Haifa's Rambam Hospital who earlier this month didn't bother sending an ambulance to meet the helicopter bringing wounded soldiers from Lebanon? Surely they could take advantage of a posting in Cairo to get advanced training from the Egyptian nurse who was indicted last week for killing patients so that they wouldn't bother her during the night.

But all this is small potatoes compared to the potential learning experience of a foreign posting for high-ranking government officials. Environmental planners could clearly absorb much from a year or two in Beijing, central bank governors could achieve even better results after a stint in Bangkok or Mexico City, privatization managers could do even better after an assignment in Havana, and traffic planners could benefit from a posting in Rome or Paris.

But the greatest effect of all would be achieved at the very top level. Compare his modest accomplishments thus far with what could be expected if the education minister were inspired by a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Or if the justice minister could have done graduate studies in law at the University of Kigali while moonlighting as ambassador to Rwanda. Or if the chief rabbis and leaders of Shas could man an embassy and some consulates in Iran. Or if all the MKs were sent to Taiwan, where they could get a proper education in parliamentary decorum.

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, it is time for Israel to stop thinking small and start appreciating the benefits of scale that could be achieved if diplomatic assignments were used for mid-career training of the people who determine how the country functions. Of course, the mere consideration of this idea would inevitably produce a flood of petty complaints by the Foreign Ministry workers' committee. But even they could at least be consoled by the knowledge that if big-time public figures took all the plum postings overseas, there would be nothing left for small-time party hacks. And besides, with so many people sent abroad, a lot of really interesting jobs would open up at home.

cut, however necessary, belongs in the category of military operations that, while brilliantly conceived, result in unanticipated negative consequences. There was little glory in Barak's hasty retreat.

BARAK HAS admitted that he erred. His first major organizational step as Labor Party chairman was a major setback.

So was Yitzhak Rabin's. Like Barak, Rabin remained, until the



The will to disbelieve

Michael Drosnin's *The Bible Code* is the international publishing sensation of the year. According to Drosnin, there is imbedded in the Bible a secret code that allows us to predict future events. His most dramatic claim on this score is that he used the code to predict the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and attempted to warn him.

Such grasping at straws is by no means limited to bumbucks and pedants. The greatest mind of our century was led into elementary mathematical errors in order to deny God.

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

**Even great minds deny God, because to acknowledge Him would obligate them**

To shore up his credibility, Drosnin is careful to insist that he remains a confirmed atheist. Let anyone associate him with those wackos who believe that the Torah is the word of God, he is quick to assure us that he has another explanation for the existence of the codes: Super-intelligent beings from outer space encoded their messages in the Hebrew Bible (which they presumably wrote, as well).

DROSIN'S EXPLANATION of the codes is just one example of a recurrent phenomenon: Intelligent people clutching at absurdities in order to deny God's existence. As a child, I read a breathless account in *Time* magazine of the "discovery," by a Near Middle Eastern scholar of naturalistic explanations for each of the ten plagues recorded in Exodus and independently confirmed by contemporary Egyptian papyrus scrolls. For his grand finale, he claimed that the spilling of the sea was the result of a massive tidal wave of the coast of Madagascar, or some such place.

It seems to have escaped the learned professor that the occurrence of an unprecedented and never-repeated event, at precisely the moment the Children of Israel arrived at the Reed Sea, with the Egyptians in hot pursuit, was a miracle of consanguinity whatever natural phenomenon were involved. (Not that one shred of proof for any such tidal wave was adduced.)

Friedmann pointed out that Einstein's published response to him contained fundamental mathematical errors was Einstein forced to concede.

That resistance was occasioned by the scientific equivalent of a nightmare. Astrophysicists, concludes Robert Jastrow, former director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Center for Space Studies, were forced to recognize the Big Bang theory as confirmation of a created universe with a definite beginning.

Einstein, however, strongly resisted the Big Bang theory, and labelled it, in a published letter, "suspicious." He made clear what aroused his suspicions. To one colleague, he wrote, "I have not yet fallen into the hands of the priests," and he professed to be irritated by the idea of an expanding universe, i.e., one that began with a single point. Only when

Dostoyevsky's Ivan lamented, "If God does not exist, everything is permitted." For the modern temperament the freedom from restraint is positive, not a cause for lament. Many who are content to while away their time watching *Baywatch* and the like would be distinctly uncomfortable with the thought that God is in the room watching over their shoulder, and quick to concede that if God created man, He probably had other pursuits in mind for him. Solution: Deny God.

Where is Barak heading?

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

ty for planning and budgeting for the shape of the IDF for the subsequent decade.

BEYOND THE party's organizational problems, where is Labor headed under Barak's leadership? To the development town of Netivot for its next part conclave, if Barak has his way. For Barak, his major task as party leader is to reduce the Likud's electoral advantage among traditional, primary Sephardic voters.

Barak spoke of this aim in a rambling discourse at the recent induction of kibbutz youngsters into formal membership in a veteran northern kibbutz.

find the way to apologize to those sectors of society who feel, however unjustly, that they were injured, even victimized, by Labor during its era of political domination.

But would an apology, however sincere, not carry with it an implicit attitude of condescension?

He was frank about another subject - Binyamin Netanyahu. He doesn't trust him. He voiced apprehension that Netanyahu, under pressure, might make excessive concessions in negotiations with the Palestinians. Perhaps Barak permitted himself to be carried away. However, the comment seemed to confirm that his basic criticism of the present prime minister is lack of the prized virtue of strength of character. It also implied a reassertion of Barak's far-from-dovish positions with regard to a final settlement.

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# NATO troops retreat before stone-throwing Serbian crowd

By DAN DE LUCE

BRCKO, (Reuters) - Hundreds of Bosnian Serb townspeople roused from their sleep by air raid sirens pelted US peacekeeping troops with rocks yesterday, forcing them to retreat from positions around a police station.

The angry crowd, including elderly women and men, menaced the troops with pieces of wood and metal bars and threw rocks at armoured vehicles, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

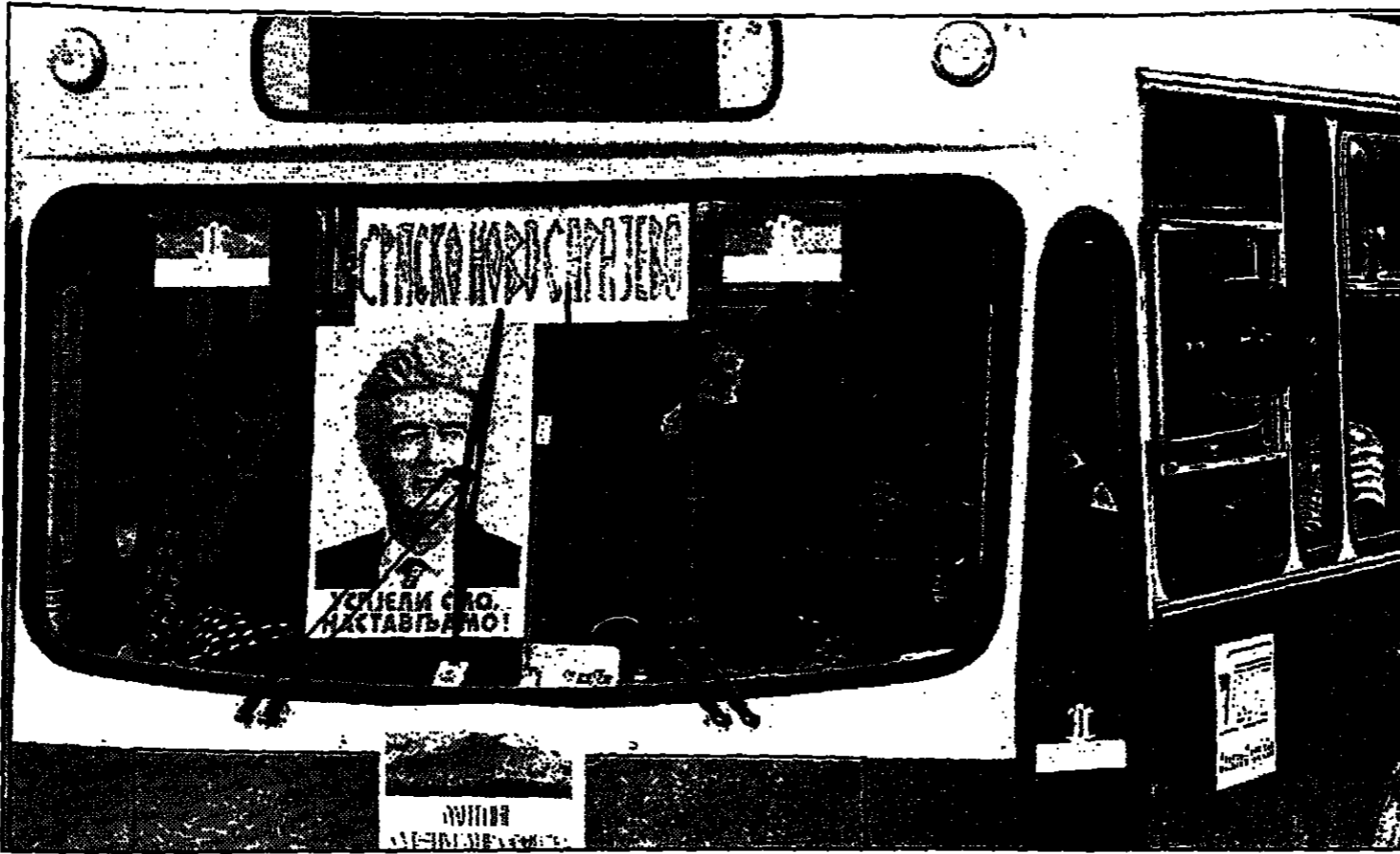
A spokesman for the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) headquarters in Sarajevo said he had no information about the incident, which represented one of the most severe challenges to SFOR troops since they took over peacekeeping in Bosnia in December of last year under terms of the Dayton peace accord.

"We don't have anything to say for the next hour," Major Chris Riley told Reuters.

Officials of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Brcko said they had heard some shooting but did not know if there were any injuries. Elements of the crowd, including a man recognized as a Bosnian Serb policeman, smashed office and car windows of the IPTF force, the officials said.

The American troops, assigned to SFOR, arrived in this town loyal to hardline Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at 3.15 a.m. (0115 GMT), apparently to force the hardliners out of the main police station, witnesses said.

The soldiers refused to talk to a reporter, but the operation was similar to one more than a week ago when 350 British and Czech troops helped loyalists of Western-backed Bosnian Serb President



A bus carrying Bosnian Serb supporters of Radovan Karadzic, decorated with his poster, heads toward Sokolac from Pale yesterday to hold demonstrations against NATO-led peacekeeping forces.

Biljana Plavsic take control of police stations in her northwest stronghold of Banja Luka. On that occasion the hardline police commanders laid down their weapons after a short standoff.

All went smoothly for the US troops, who arrived in half a dozen armoured personnel carriers, until an hour later when an air raid siren began sounding and hundreds of people, cursing and

shouting "get out of here" and "leave", poured into the streets.

Elderly women at the front of the crowd battered the gun turrets of the armoured vehicles while other people threw stones, forcing the troops to retreat from positions in front of the police station and drive back across a bridge.

A Humvee jeep vehicle parked in front of the police station refused to start and an angry

crowd gathered around it, menacing US soldiers standing beside it.

When the vehicle finally started, some of the women in the crowd started shoving the soldiers.

Young men at a vantage point above a bridge which leads out of the town pelted the US vehicles with stones as they slowed down to drive across.

The incident seemed to be part of a growing and possibly organ-

ised resistance among Karadzic supporters to efforts by Plavsic and the Western community to bolster her strength in Bosnian Serb territory.

On Wednesday, Karadzic loyalists forcibly took back control of a television transmitter at Duga Njiva which had been seized earlier in the day by Plavsic backers.

# Aussie parliament OKs summit on ending UK ties

By TERRY FRIEL

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australia's republican movement received a boost yesterday when parliament approved a national summit on whether to end two centuries of formal ties with Britain.

Prime Minister John Howard, an avowed monarchist, told parliament that the summit will be held by mid-1998 and Australians would elect half the 152 delegates before the end of this year.

The breakthrough means that there could be a national vote by the turn of the century on whether to ditch Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state and cut the remaining constitutional ties to Australia's former colonial master.

The decision is nevertheless a victory for Howard, who insisted on holding the summit on his terms or not at all. He will be among 76 government-nominated delegates who also will include opposition and community figures.

"Finally, the phoney war has ended and we really will, in Australia, have a chance to test in the polls what we believe to be doing support for a republic of any sort," Kerry Jones, leader of Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy, told reporters.

Any speedy move to a republic had appeared doomed by a stalemate over how voters would choose the delegates for a national summit, until two key members of the upper house, the Senate, backed down.

Howard had threatened to cancel the constitutional convention if the Labor opposition and a collection of minor parties and independents used their numbers in the Senate to insist

on a compulsory national vote for the delegates.

But an independent and a Greens senator reversed their earlier opposition and backed the government's plan for a voluntary postal ballot, saying cancelling the summit would set back the republican cause.

"If the legislation didn't get through today, the issue of the republic was dead," explained Greens senator Bob Brown. "This is our only chance during the period of office of the conservatives... to not only progress the republic but to take it out of the hands of the politicians and put it into the hands of the people." Republican Movement head

Malcolm Turnbull said he hoped the Senate back-down would pave the way for a national vote on becoming a republic by the turn of the century.

"I think there is an overwhelming sentiment among Australians in favor of this change," he said.


Opinion polls show republican sentiment firming again after dipping following the Liberal-National coalition's landslide 1996 victory that ousted the strongly republican Labor government of Paul Keating.

Although Australia is independent, its constitution was passed as an act of the British parliament and its formal head of state is the ruling British monarch, not an Australian.

Column One

## The last of the big white chiefs

By Thomas O'Dwyer



Nelson Mandela stepped onto South Africa's center stage with a fanfare that echoed round the world. This week, his former partner in peace slipped quietly out a side exit of his once mighty National Party.

The world once paused to analyze every word uttered by F.W. de Klerk. Would he or wouldn't he? (Survive, end apartheid, free Nelson Mandela!) He did all of them, but this week his political survival option finally expired. His departure answers the last "will he?" question. He won't be the one to change the National Party completely from the champion of apartheid to the champion of the loyal opposition. He won't be the one to build on its surprisingly strong base in certain sectors of the non-white communities.

Now that he is gone, probably no one will. The National Party really has no heir apparent.

The departure of de Klerk confirmed the wispy evaporation of some wishful thinking - the National Party never will win broad non-white support. Conventional local wisdom says the more things change in the new South Africa, the more they remain the same.

Perhaps not; this may be the beginning of the end of the National Party. In current South African opposition politics a party without considerable support within the black majority has no hope of ever seeking power. An opposition without a chance of power is not a party; a country with a main opposition that has no hope of power is not a democracy.

### Passed torch

The failure to attract rising black support is not F.W. de Klerk's fault, nor is it black voters' fault. There are many strong old traditionalists in the NP who blantly do not want black support. But among the voters, interest in political machinations are at an all-time low.

Not surprisingly, after the years of struggle against apartheid by the good guys, and the shock of their loss by the bad guys, ending in the huge emotional outburst of the election of the god-like Mandela, most South Africans have had the political stuffing knocked out of them. De Klerk's announcement of his departure this week was overshadowed by Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic torch. Ironically the Cape was F.W.'s last bastion.

A South African newspaper writer said recently the country has become one that chases miracles - in reconciliation, in politics and now in international sports. Cape Town is not considered a favorite to win the Olympics and the brave effort should not make the whole country forget the shaky state of the political system which is its future for long after 2004.

Fields of dreams  
"Party today" is fine as long as

there is not a heavy price down the road tomorrow. It is very dangerous for a new democracy to hit the high road without a strong democratic opposition.

Neophyte elected leaders must get used to being criticized, attacked, even mocked, so that the greater good of lively national debate thrives. Mandela's government has no problem with that - but after him? This is still Africa, tribal Africa, and it's worth asking Zulu Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi how he feels about criticism and opposition.

South Africans' "so what?" attitude to the NP's dilemma does not lessen the serious obligation the NP has to transform itself - or else positively burn itself out and let a renewed force rise from its ashes. This is a very important, very beautiful country, consistently reminded it is Africa's last chance to redeem itself. From the luxurious seaside villas of the Cape to the sprawling squatter shacks that seem to march in from the countryside to embrace the towns, the nation finally has the amalgamated dreams of Africa, Europe and Asia spread before it.

Game reserves, skyscrapers, huge vineyards, wild life, 11 official languages... As the poet said: *Tread softly for you tread on my dreams.*

### Downhill

De Klerk hoped his departure (effective September 9) would lighten the load of apartheid baggage that still slows down his country and his party. His going would have been more useful had there been a credible, preferably black leader to follow him. There isn't.

The party may have succeeded in wooing the majority of the country's mixed race "coloreds" during de Klerk's tenure, but without a new black leader - that's it. The former leader's estimate of 15 percent black support is generous. But the trend is downhill, not up.

Those touted as potential successors are lightweights - wrong people in the wrong place at the wrong time. The conservative Hennis Kriel, premier of Western Cape province, may hail from the NP's stronghold - but he is at heart just a provincial leader in a huge country. The liberal Marthinus van Schalkwyk is probably too young and untried for such a major job.

And the truth is those blacks and coloreds who are paraded as NP voters probably aren't. They were F.W. de Klerk voters and will evaporate with his political career.

Poor old F.W.! Cassandra of old was granted the true gift of prophecy - but was destined never to be believed. F.W. de Klerk was granted a powerful destiny to change history - and not be appreciated for it. As a final cruel joke of the gods, he may cause more change by his departure than he did in office.

# Clinton's ex-agriculture secretary indicted

By JAMES ROWLEY

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal grand jury yesterday charged former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy with 39 counts of illegally accepting gifts and favors from large food producers and trying to cover up his activities.

The grand jury accused Espy of accepting more than \$35,000 in gifts, trips and favors from large agribusinesses that dealt with USDA when he headed the agency between 1993 and 1994.

Espy also was charged with witness tampering and lying to investigators about his receipt of gifts, including tickets to a pro basketball game. Among other things, he was charged with ordering a USDA employee to alter a document that had been sought by the Agriculture Department's inspector general. That charge alone carries a maximum 10-year prison term upon conviction.

Espy's law office in Jackson, Mississippi, said Espy was not immediately available for comment. Espy resigned in December 1994, three months after an independent counsel began his investigation. A former Mississippi congressman, Espy has denied any criminal wrongdoing.

The indictment also charged that Espy lied to the White House when he investigated the allegations as part of an ethics review and failed to disclose the gifts on his government financial disclosure report.

If convicted of all 39 charges and sentenced consecutively he could face a jail term of more than 100 years.

Among the sources of gifts was a lobbyist for Tyson Foods Inc., an Arkansas-based chicken processor. The company has been notified that it is a target of the investigation by independent counsel Donald C. Smaltz, according to a person familiar with the probe.

In May, a federal judge fined Sun Diamond Growers of California, America's largest grower of raisins, prunes and other dried fruits, \$1.5 million for giving Espy \$6,000 in illegal gratuities and for illegally donating \$4,000 to the failed congressional campaign of Espy's brother, Henry.

Sun Diamond lobbyist Richard Douglas is awaiting trial in San Francisco on charges of lavishing favors and gifts on Espy and his girlfriend, Patricia Dempsey. Smaltz was appointed to investigate whether Espy violated the law by accepting tickets to a Dallas Cowboys football playoff game and \$1,009 in air fare for himself and his girlfriend from Tyson lobbyist Jack L. Williams. Williams was found guilty in March of lying about providing the football and airline tickets to Espy. But in June, a federal judge set aside Williams' conviction and ordered a new trial.

Douglas is accused of giving Espy a \$2,427 set of luggage and a \$4,590 trip for him and his girlfriend to the 1983 US Open tennis tournament in New York City.

The unravelling of the tombstone of our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather

## BENNY POLLAK

will take place on Friday, September 5, 1997 (3 Elul 5757) at 10:30 a.m., at Her Hamenuhot Cemetery. (We will meet in the parking area.)

Netta Pollak  
Renee & Laurence Becker and Family

With great sorrow, we announce the passing after suffering bravely borne of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

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on August 26, 1997 (23 Menahem Av 5757)

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Mirjam and Aron Colthof  
Nathania and Chaim Braun  
and their children and grandchildren

Shiva at the Colthof residence, 26 Shaulesohn, Her Nof, Jerusalem, and on Sunday morning, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., at the Senior Residents' Home, Beit Barth, Derech Hevron, Jerusalem.

Rabbi Dr. Moshe Edelmann  
The Board and the Members of  
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We mourn the untimely passing of our former chairman and friend

## JOSEPH (Joe) HOFFMAN

and share the grief of  
Margit, Michael, Judy and the Family

תפקים ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

mourns the passing of

## ERNEST SCHWARCZ

Dean and Professor of Philosophy  
Queens College, New York City

and extends heartfelt condolences to his family.

Prof. Yehuda Hayuth, President

Bar-Ilan University

mourns the untimely loss of a great man and a dear friend

## AHARON MEIR

Former Chairman of the University's Global Board of Trustees

We extend deepest condolences to the family  
May we be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

World ORT Union

mourns the passing of

## Justice Dr. MOSHE ETZIONI

Vice President of World ORT Union  
and Chairman of its Judiciary Committee

President of the World ORT Union,  
Honorary Officers, Members of the Central Board  
and the Director General and Staff  
of the World ORT Union.

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

deeply mourns the passing of

## PROF. SIR JOHN KENDREW, C.B.E.

recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and  
Honorary Fellow of the Weizmann Institute,  
who served as a member of the Institute's Board of  
Governors and past co-chairman of its  
Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee

## Lost and found: The story of Tsila

Is Tsila Levine's story proof of a plot to kidnap Yemenite children? It all depends who you ask, Larry Derfner reports.

Tsila Levine was "misplaced" by Rosh Ha'ayin hospital and immigration authorities in 1950, which is why she and her mother lost touch until now, said Ami Hovav. He investigated Levine's disappearance for a government-appointed commission of inquiry into the Yemenite children affair 30 years ago.

Hovav told *The Jerusalem Post* he is convinced that Levine is the biological daughter of Margalit Omessi — not only because of the DNA match between them, but also because of the physical resemblance between Levine and Omessi's other daughters, and because Omessi's story of how she lost Levine seems to square with old records of what happened to the girl.

Hovav said Levine was lost in the same way hundreds of other Yemenite children were lost — because of the inability of authorities to keep track of them. "Do you know what chaos there was at that time? There was no administration," he said. In contrast to Yemenite activists, who claim Levine, like hundreds or even thousands of other Yemenite children, was kidnapped by authorities and illegally given up or sold for adoption, Hovav maintained that "there was no kidnapping, no theft, no sale." Instead, it was an all-too-characteristic mistake of the time, he said.

Hovav, a retired private investigator and army intelligence officer living in Jerusalem, was the investigator for the Bahoul-Minkovsky Commission in 1967-68, and for the Shalgi Commission in 1988-1994. These panels investigated the cases of some 650 lost Yemenite children. They turned up records showing that approximately 540 had died; some 30 were alive, adopted or had disappeared before coming to Israel, and about 80 were unaccounted for. Tsila Levine was in the latter category — until now.

Margalit Omessi brought her case to the Bahoul-Minkovsky Commission, Hovav said. She

told the panel that her daughter had disappeared from the Rosh Ha'ayin tent camp, where thousands of other Yemenite families were living. Since being reunited with her daughter, Omessi has said that Tsila was in the nursery at the transit camp, until one day she was just gone. Authorities, she says, told her they did not know where the girl was.

Omessi says she searched the camp, hospitals and other immigrant facilities, and never found Tsila, nor was she given any explanation of what happened to her.

Hovav says the last day Omessi saw Tsila was evidently December 11, 1949. Hospital records show the girl was suffering from malaria, malnutrition and a throat ailment, and taken the following day to the Hadassah Hospital branch in Rosh Ha'ayin.

Omessi was never told where Tsila had been taken, she says.

According to Hovav, Tsila stayed at the hospital for about a month, until January 15, 1950. But then she was sent back to the tent camp, and, Hovav said, "This is evidently where mother and daughter lost touch with each other."

The tent camp was divided into three sprawling sections — Alef, Bet and Gimmel, each with thousands of Yemenite families. Omessi had been living in Alef, and Tsila was kept in the nursery of that section, where Omessi used to come to nurse her. Hadassah Hospital records showed that when Tsila was brought back to the tent camp, she was mistakenly placed in the nursery of section Bet, away from her mother.

WHY COULDN'T the camp authorities find Levine? "They fouled up the names," Hovav said, adding that this was how many Yemenite children were lost.

Levine was listed on her immigrant's certificate (*tsadat ola*) as "Sa'ada Mazal bat Yosef Komemi," Hovav said. "Some Romanian nurse, or whoever, looked at this name, didn't know what to make of it, and wrote



As a mother's dream comes true and a daughter's quest ends, Margalit Omessi (left) and Tsila Levine at the Cohen Commission this week. (Issac Harari)

down something else." Levine's mother was listed as Margalit Omessi, and later, after a remarriage, as Margalit Barzilai, Hovav said. With the comings and goings, language barriers and general anarchy of the tent camp, the two were never reunited in the camp.

Meanwhile, camp authorities had a baby on their hands, and a mother who couldn't be found. So Tsila was put up for adoption, Hovav said.

He said he has located about 10 adopted Yemenite children, mostly in the US, who told him

they do not want to try to find their biological parents. However, there are a number of Yemenite adoptees who, like Levine, do want to find their biological parents and have been searching for them.

SAMPSON GIAT, president of the Yemenite Jewish Federation of America, "discovered" Tsila Levine. It happened about 12 to 18 months ago, after Giat made an appeal on a Habad satellite television program in the US to adoptees who believe they were among the "lost Yemenite children."

Levine, who lives in Sacramento, was one of four adoptees who replied, Giat told

*The Jerusalem Post*. He said he concentrated on Levine's case because she had the best documentation on her adoption, and thus stood the strongest chance of finding her biological parents.

Giat is accompanying Levine on her visit to Israel. He is, he said, very familiar with the hospital records cited by Hovav, adding, "I don't doubt that they're correct."

Where Giat and other Yemenite Jewish activists differ from Hovav and those connected with the investigatory commissions is in maintaining that Levine and other Yemenite children were not innocently lost, but kidnapped and sold into adoption.

"You look at pictures of Yemenite children from that era and you see that they were wearing identification bands on their wrists," Giat said. "The doctors knew who they were and who they belonged to." Giat and other activists maintain that there is extensive documentation from the Children of Yemen affair pointing to a plot by Israeli authorities to steal children from their parents and sell them to childless Ashkenazi couples.

After finding Levine, Giat said, he testified about her case before the current commission of inquiry being held in Jerusalem's Beit Agnon and headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Yehuda Cohen. He implored the commission to use its considerable powers to find Levine's parents, Giat said, but Cohen essentially brushed him off.

THE DOUBTS raised about Levine's identity at Wednesday's commission hearing left her saddened but still absolutely certain that she is Omessi's biological daughter, Levine told the *Post*.

"I felt like we were in a war, that somebody was trying to take my happiness away from me," she said. "It was very sad." She was referring to the questions put to her by Dror Nahmani-Roth, a deputy state prosecutor working with the Cohen Commission.

Nahmani-Roth noted that

Levine's Israeli adoption papers say she was adopted in February 1949, but that Omessi's identification card says Omessi did not immigrate to Israel until seven months later.

Levine's attorney, Rami Tsuberi, maintained in court that the documents were forgeries.

Levine said later, "The DNA tests prove beyond a shadow of a doubt [that Omessi is her biological mother], and I don't rely on any documents that came out of offices from that time."

Dr. Ghassan Khatib of Hebrew University's genetics department recently tested blood samples from Levine, Omessi and her other daughters, and determined a 99.99143 percent probability — the highest possible DNA verification, Khatib noted — that Levine was truly Omessi's biological daughter.

Yet because of the discrepancies in Levine's and Omessi's documents, the Cohen Commission wants Levine to retake the DNA test. Levine says she is eager to comply.

"I'll take the test with anybody [the commission appoints to conduct it]," she said.

Giat derided the questions about Levine's identity that the commission raised, saying, "They can't have it both ways. They can't say a lot of records were lost, that a lot of mistakes were made, that there was so much confusion — and then try to rely on these dates like they were engraved in stone."

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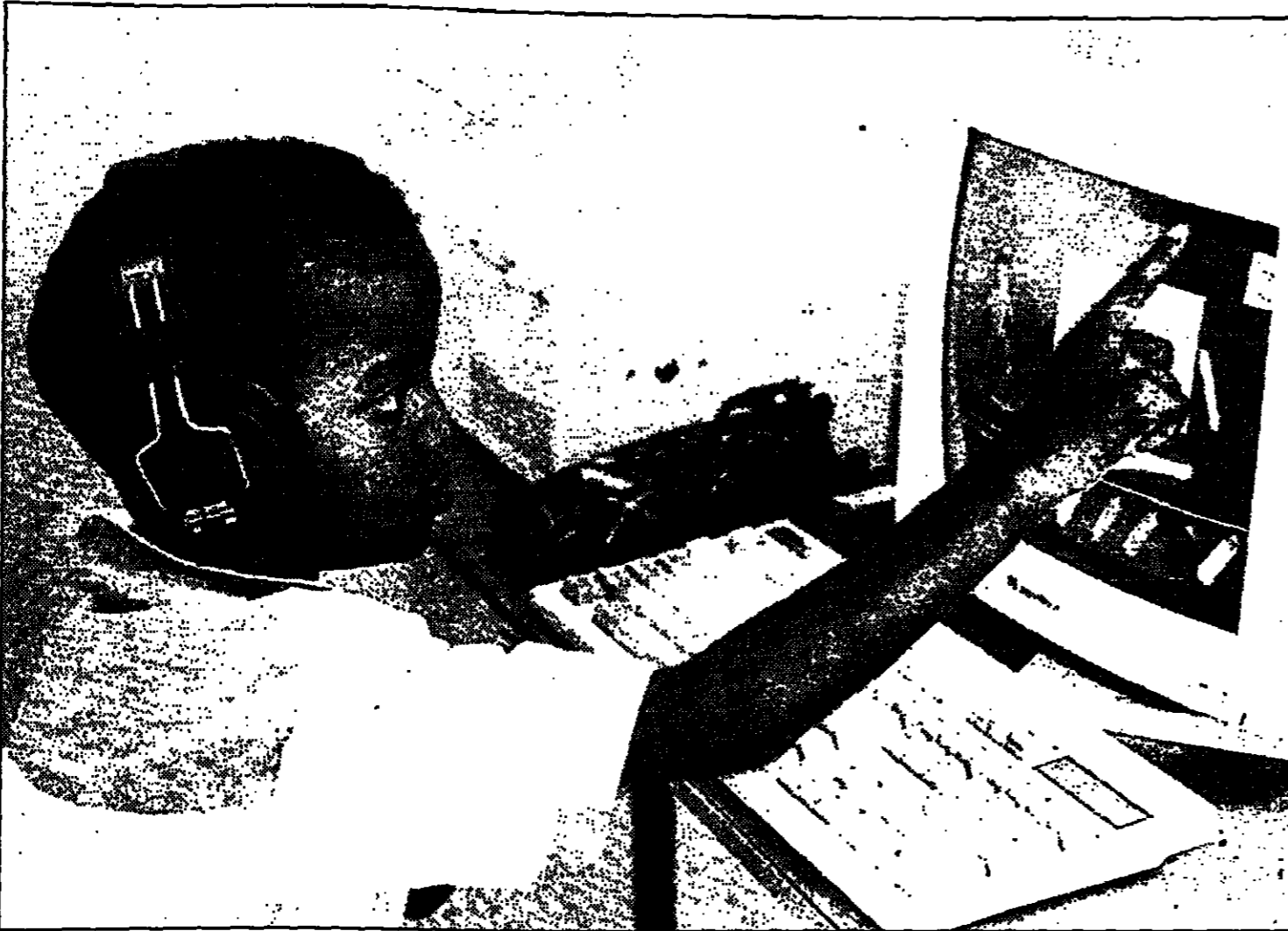
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The opening will take place on Tuesday 2.9.97 at 19:30 at the Museum for Islamic Art  
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**IP Special price: NIS 105**

# Break's over

It seemed as if those summer months pupils adore and parents dread would never end. But September 1 is almost here, and it'll be books not beaches from now on. Aryeh Dean Cohen looks at what children, parents and teachers can expect from this new school year.



Education Ministry plans call for reading and writing to be taught partly by computer.

## What will they be learning - and how?

Flexibility is the key to today's curricula - and, of course, more computers

They'll study less, you'll pay more - that much you know. But once your children settle down in the classroom on September 1, will they be studying anything new? And what will be new about the way they learn?

Elementary school pupils will feel the changes essentially in three areas, according to Dr. Ilana Zailer, director of the Education Ministry's Elementary Education Administration.

"The first is the organization of classroom hours," said Zailer. "Things will be much more flexible. Instead of having a program in which time is devoted to each subject on a daily basis, the schools themselves will be able to determine just how much class time gets allotted to each subject. For instance, a school could decide to devote an entire week to a particular subject."

"Overall, learning will also be done in a more interdisciplinary fashion," Zailer said. "In Hebrew language study, for example, instead of having one class for writing, one for grammar and so on, the approach will be more integrated. It will also be used where subjects can be integrated with each other."

"We're pushing to change the concept of the pupil-teacher relationship," Zailer noted. "A teacher shouldn't be just an instructor, and the pupil isn't there just to be spoon-fed knowledge. There are other sources of information too; they need to be explored and included. We hope to have pupils do more

see only once a week. It will be accessible - like a pencil or a pocket calculator is now," Zailer refers to what is being created as "a new literacy."

More resources will be made available within the elementary schools, which will hopefully prompt "the kids and not the teachers to ask the questions." These new resources will also be used to teach the same subjects in more innovative ways.

As Zailer put it, "You can't teach different history, but you can teach history differently."

SECONDARY school pupils will also find some changes this fall, according to Ruth Ottolenghi, director of the ministry's Secondary School Education Division - although the threatened strike made it "difficult to talk about the better, when we don't even know if we're going to have bread."

One change will be a new option allowing pupils to adopt "a more modular approach" to taking matriculation exams.

Under the new system, a pupil will be able to be tested in just part of his exam and receive a grade in his school. This grade will not be entered on his matriculation result, but will be used as another component when he feels ready to take the remaining part of the exam. In other words, the earlier grade can be counted as part of the overall matriculation exam result.

This means that some pupils who were afraid in the past to consider taking an entire exam in a particular subject will be able to take it in stages, with the first part serving as a jumping-off point for the additional test.

High schools will also be doing more to increase pupils' motivation for army service. Include will be "various activities we will undertake with the homeroom teachers and other instructors," Ottolenghi explained.

Do you think your child's secondary school is too large? Ottolenghi and her ministry associates agree. "We want to rethink the whole idea of school size," she said. "Some of the schools have recently gotten much too large - to put it mildly. We plan to discuss this with the ministry's development authority, and we'll be doing a survey about the optimum size of schools, which differs from place to place."

As for what will be going on inside the classrooms themselves, science, history and languages are three areas that will experience changes. One program is aimed at pupils in the upper grades who don't elect to study those subjects. "In the past, they wouldn't have had to take these courses at all," Ottolenghi notes, "but the Harari Commission recommended that

no pupil be allowed to finish high school without at least a basic knowledge of science and technology." For these pupils, the approach will be geared to how science and technology serves man.

History will be taught in a more integrated fashion, she went on. "Pupils will learn about what was going on here and abroad during the same period; the curriculum will also be updated, since this particular approach has, until now, ended with the creation of the state."

One major change will be junior high school students having to take a second foreign language, the emphasis being on Arabic or French. "We live in a state in the Middle East, with a large Arab population. All our neighbors speak Arabic," Ottolenghi said. "There is also the element of a demand for equality by Israeli Arabs, who are required to learn Hebrew and Arabic," she explained.

The emphasis on French will benefit the many Alliance schools, and there is a sizable population of immigrants from French-speaking countries, she added.

Pupils studying art will find the approach less chronological and more based on varying subjects and styles, while the increase in the number of schools offering programs in film, theater, art and music is expected to continue.

ENGLISH classes everywhere will also see differences this year as schools continue to implement the Bridges program. This is based on teaching reading, writing, listening and

**'The teacher isn't just an instructor, and the pupil isn't there just to be spoon-fed knowledge by the teacher.'**

speaking together, but without the overwhelming emphasis on those "boring" grammar exercises pupils complain constantly about.

According to Judy Steiner, the Education Ministry's chief inspector of English, "Grammar will be taught as it comes up, and not just for its own sake. Instead of filling in examples of 'has, had, is, were' and so on, there will be more emphasis on reading in the younger grades."

This emphasis on reading is exemplified by the ministry's having granted junior high schools NIS 1.5 million to buy books for seventh graders last year, aimed at having the pupils choose their own books to read. Elementary schools received an added NIS 500,000 worth of books.

"We're putting tremendous emphasis on reading for pleasure," Steiner says. "Research shows that if you want to improve your written grammar and vocabulary, the best way is by reading more." Matriculation exams in English will also feature more emphasis on writing, she said.

Asked about parents' complaints about the low level of English teaching in some schools, Steiner answered: "We suffer from a chronic lack of English teachers, something that obviously affects the quality of teaching. This year is one of the first where, in some areas, we have a general surplus of English teachers."

Steiner denied that the problem had led the ministry to "import" teachers. She explained that the ministry, along with the Jewish Agency, was simply offering to train immigrants from English-speaking countries with a BA to become English teachers. "We're encouraging aliyah, while at the same time ending up with a nice group of English teachers," she said.

While English will continue to be a required subject beginning only in fourth grade, parents who get together to request the ministry's permission can have those classes start even earlier at their children's school.

But in any language, parents can only hope that the school year gets under way on time. If not, they risk seeing some of those exciting innovations go by the board.

Youngsters also may not find their favorite teachers when they return to school, since the cuts could mean firing some 2,000 teachers, according to Abuav.

"These teachers are generally those who have just completed their first or second year of teaching," he says. "They're generally the most motivated, with the most up-to-date skills and

**Youngsters could find their favorite teachers gone, since the cuts may mean the firing of some 2,000 teaching staff**

knowledge. They've only recently finished school, and are the ones who have been exposed to the most advanced materials. Many of them are now looking for work outside the educational field."

Your child's teacher is also likely to miss out on important advanced teacher-training courses this year. According to Abuav, these special courses, largely school-wide study days, were instituted two years ago. Some 70 percent of teachers participated in them.

"It was very important,

because it meant that the teachers would also learn," he explained. "These classes helped teachers bring innovations into the classroom."

Besides the problems inside the schools, Abuav is concerned about what's going on outside - particularly up on the roof of some of the crumbling school structures.

"There is a significant problem involving older schools throughout the country," he said. "There are some 1,800 such schools, many built 30, 40 or even 50 years ago. Some are roofed with asbestos, which can crack. The result can be pupils and teachers breathing in carcinogenic dust.

Fire hazards are also a concern. "More than 300 classrooms are built out of flammable material," Abuav observes. "In many cases, the electrical system in these classrooms is near collapse; one short circuit and the whole classroom could turn into a firetrap in minutes."

"Other schools have outdated water and sanitation systems that need replacing. Some simply have cracks in them."

"To deal with the structural problems in the schools we estimate a budget of NIS 450 million needed this year." After the cuts, Abuav observes, "we have a budget of NIS 75m."

See ABUAV, Page 12



Arab pupils study three languages but aren't allocated extra teaching hours. (Brian Headley)

## Arab schools: From bad to worse

Not enough classrooms, an alarming loss of teaching hours, woefully few computers. You mention it, the Arab sector hasn't got it.

From not enough classrooms to a severe shortage of special-education teachers, the forecast for this school year in the Arab sector is particularly dreary, says Ragman Sour, head of the Nazareth Municipality's education department and is a member of the Arab Local Councils' monitoring committee on education.

One main problem, says Sour, is a lack of coordination between the Education Ministry and the schools' on pedagogical and other matters. "There simply aren't enough inspectors in the field to let the ministry know what's happening in the schools."

He cites the example of a study theme for the school year. "Last year it was 'Rights and Obligations,' and it'll probably end up being the same this year. As a result, no one relates to the study theme seriously. It's just ignored, or not taught at all."

An Education Ministry spokeswoman said that this year's theme, Israel's 50th anniversary, would be implemented in the Arab and Druze sectors as well.

A more serious problem is the lack of funds for building some much-needed new classrooms. "The situation had undergone slight improvement and there were plans for building," Sour notes. "But despite that, the process is at a standstill." In Nazareth and Umm el-Fahh, he says, financing hasn't been forthcoming for a sin-

gle sector of new classrooms, even though 72 are needed right now in Nazareth alone. Funds for renovating existing structures are also hard to come by.

"To create an atmosphere that is conducive to education," Sour says, "you need first to renovate the schools. The Arab sector has received very small budgets for this, and then only for the big cities."

Early childhood education is in serious trouble, with no nursery schools or kindergartens being built either, Sour laments.

"Local councils are having all kinds of trouble finding the proper buildings," Sour says. "While in the Jewish sector 98 percent of children aged three to five go to kindergarten, in the Arab sector only 25 percent of three-year-olds go, and about 40 percent of four-year-olds."

SOUR EXPECTS the cuts in the Education Ministry budget to translate into a loss of about two hours per class. This will constitute an even heavier burden on the Arab-sector schools, he sighs. Pupils study three languages, but aren't allocated the extra teaching hours needed from the ministry, or compensated for the fact that in some schools religious studies have to be broken down into classes for Christians and classes for Moslems.

Special education is also a serious problem, with not enough money available to add the teach-

ing positions that are so desperately needed.

"The government has not fully implemented the Special Education Law, which lays down that any child who needs special education be enabled to receive it," Sour says. "We are missing tens of thousands of necessary teaching hours. The problem is particularly serious in the south."

If the school computerization program has been slow to take hold in the Jewish sector, in the Arab sector it is progressing at a snail's pace, no more.

"In Nazareth, only one of 20 elementary schools has been computerized," he notes. And funds for laboratory equipment generally only reach the Arab-sector schools at the end of the school year, making it "practically useless for planning purposes," Sour says. There is also a sore lack of after-school programs for the underprivileged.

For Sour, the new school year holds more questions than answers. "We are entering the school year with a huge amount of uncertainty over what is going to happen," he says.

One thing is pretty certain, however. Arab pupils will be going home earlier from school this year. Another good bet: The Arab local councils are unlikely to let the bad situation in their schools continue without a protest. They might even close down the schools. - A.D.C.

**The maxim behind one new program: Pupils' abilities should not be measured by tests alone.**

independent work on certain subjects, especially exploring source material."

Pupils with mild learning problems will continue to benefit from the Betzava program, designed to keep as many as possible in regular classes as opposed to being sent for special education.

"This program allows pupils with special needs to make progress within the framework of regular classes," Zailer explained, adding that the aim is to reduce the number of pupils sent to special education by a third. This will be done partly by allowing these children to get help with their learning problems from their homeroom teachers. The program is to be introduced at the junior high school level this year; pupils who have been in the program for the past two years will be evaluated to see how it has contributed to their educational and social progress.

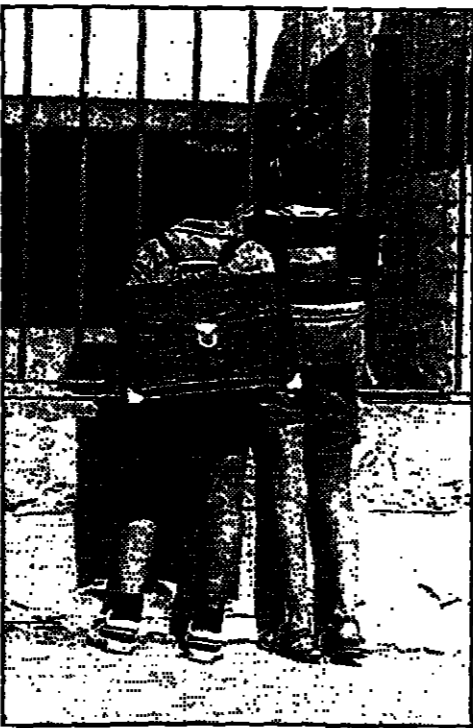
The maxim behind another new program, to be implemented in some 700 schools this year, is that pupils' abilities should not be measured by tests alone. Accordingly, teachers will be encouraged to develop alternative assessments of their pupils' achievements.

"Instead of someone on the fifth floor of the Ministry of Education building in Tel Aviv deciding how a kid in Dimona should be tested, tests will be formulated inside the schools," said Zailer. "The aim is to give the teachers insight, so they can see that improving the assessment of a student's 'portfolio' is actually part of the overall teaching process. It will also allow them to get a more accurate picture of pupils' performance."

Computers will naturally form a big part of the change in the way pupils learn, at least in those schools that have them. "We consider the use of computers one of the basic skills," Zailer said. "Once there were three rudimentary elements in education; now there are four."

Plans call for reading and writing to be taught partially by using the computer; computers will be used for other subjects as well. No child will leave elementary school without a familiarity with basic computer operations. Zailer promised, including typing and using the computer as a data base.

"The computer won't be something pupils



Ministry guidelines lay down that first and second graders' bags should weigh no more than 2 kilograms, and third to sixth graders' no more than 5 kg. (Rachamim Israeli)





# Two faces of Palestinian law and order

General Ghazi Jabali, Palestinian police chief, is wanted by Israel. Fayez Abu Rahme is the PA's newly appointed public prosecutor. They represent the two poles of the Palestinian justice system. Abu Rahme despises military power. Jabali revels in it. Abu Rahme is a moderate who defends the legal rights of Islamic radicals. Jabali knows how to lash out at Hamas. Both are in a position to profoundly affect their society. Jon Immanuel interviews them.

## LAW

At the end of a shabby corridor and a row of untidy rooms where clerks sift through mounds of files and visitors try to buttonhole anyone who will listen to their complaints, Fayez Abu Rahme, the new public prosecutor of the Palestinian Authority, sits in his small office and ponders.



the remark, although Abu Rahme said he had intended to mock Sharnir, not them. "They did not understand me," he says. "I knew it was impossible to have barefooted policemen." What he did mean to imply was that Palestinians were seeking a demilitarization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But, he notes that the police in England "still carry sticks."

He now serves a regime for which pomp, parades, automatic weapons, and military intrusion into the justice system is taken for granted.

"The Egyptians used to cooperate with us. There was no argument about an order that we gave. I thought we were now practicing the same system. That was my real mistake," he admits, referring to the period between 1948 and 1967 when Egypt held Gaza.

Abu Rahme's wry humor comes to the surface frequently, indicating he has his wit about him. His reservations about Arafat's interference in legal matters was also shown by Abu Rahme's objections to the lightning trial given three Jericho gas-station attendants convicted of murdering taxi driver Stumel Ben-Baruch this month.

"I am treated like an outsider in these cases," Abu Rahme said. He said he had no knowledge of the Jericho case until after the fact, and went public with his objections to the way the trial was carried out, saying on television, "you can't make justice in 30 minutes."

"Accused people have to be given the opportunity to defend themselves. I remember in the Fifties that when anybody confessed to a huge felony like murder the judges also had to consider the evidence," Abu Rahme adds.

What is most noticeable about the man is that he argues not on the basis of abstract principles, but on what he sees as a tradition of Palestinian justice he would like to see his people resume.

He recognizes, however, that the present is a little different from the past. He does not reject military courts entirely, "in our special circumstances." But he cautions that "treatment of the facts must be wider, wiser and just."

See ABU RAHME, Page 12

**'I believe my authority is an absolute authority to tackle all prisoners' cases without the approval of a higher authority.'**  
- Abu Rahme

ty and got the job that perhaps should have been his in the first place.

Because of his high social position Abu Rahme does not seem a type that can be easily seduced by power. He is a man who speaks his mind. Indeed, one statement he made at the beginning of the intifada put an abyss between him and the rising tide of nationalism. As a prominent spokesman for the Palestinian cause, he dismissed then prime minister Yitzhak Sharnir's security arguments against letting Palestinians achieve independence.

"If that's the problem, Palestinian police will go barefoot and carry sticks," Abu Rahme quipped at the time. Many of his countrymen took offense to

A septuagenarian, who admits he is not in good health, Abu Rahme slouches in his high-backed chair. After several seconds of cautious reflection he leans forward and says, pausing for breath, "I believe my authority is an absolute authority to tackle all prisoners' cases without the approval of a higher authority."

Those are fighting words that have already put him on a collision course with his employer, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. On August 15, when Arafat was resisting Israel's demands to arrest Islamic extremists, Abu Rahme embarrassed him by ordering the release of 10 Islamic activists.

Abu Rahme said his action was based solely on law. "Some of these people had been in jail for more than two years without charges. That is not legal," he said.

On Arafat's orders, the same suspects were back in jail 30 minutes later. Two prison officials, Mohammed Atawni and his deputy Ahmed Abu Mulakeh, were arrested for "disobeying internal orders that they not be released," Abu Rahme said.

He takes the rebuke to his authority philosophically and admits to one error. "I should have informed the president. So I consider myself guilty on that score," he says.

Abu Rahme is a name out of the past. In 1985 he was a leading personality in Gaza but his moderate views were overtaken by the youthful tidal wave of the intifada. Considered an independent figure, he was chairman of the Gaza Bar Association for 14 years.

But his deputy, Khalid Kidrah, was appointed as the PA's first public prosecutor. In June, Kidrah was fired in the first broadside against corruption, after being accused of taking bribes in exchange for releasing prisoners.

Abu Rahme was rescued from obscuri-

## ORDER



**'The whole problem with the Israelis is they are amazed at how the police force has developed. This is why their argument is against me and not against any other part of our security organization.'**  
- Jabali

settlement near Nablus last month. Asked why Israel should make this charge, he responds in an unexpected, but for him, characteristic way. Another Palestinian official might accuse Israel of trying to torpedo the Oslo accords.

But Jabali writes it all off as a matter of professional jealousy.

"The whole problem with the Israelis is they are amazed at how the police force has developed. This is why their argument is against me and not against any other part of our security organization," Jabali said.

He adds that his Israeli colleagues have

never questioned him about what the captured policemen were up to.

Jabali admits that the affair has "something to do" with the trial of three members of Force 17, Arafat's personal security guards, and a fourth Palestinian in Nablus this month for harassing residents of Asira Qibliya, a village near Bracha.

The ringleader was sentenced to death as a collaborator.

Security sources in Nablus linked the three Force 17 members to a known collaborator called Harb Yunis who lives under Israeli protection in Bracha. They believe that Jabali may have authorized his eager policemen to see if they could capture Yunis, who had been named by the condemned Force 17 ringleader as his contact.

Based on this theory, Jabali may simply never have considered the violence that could have resulted from having Palestinians try to abduct someone from in or around an Israeli settlement.

Palestinian security sources note, however, that the incident occurred after IDF undercover troops entered Tulkarm to abduct an escaped Islamic Jihad prisoner, although the town is under Palestinian control.

Jabali may have considered it a matter of pride to match that feat, the sources say. Palestinians consider it odd that Jabali, rather than an undercover security agency, should have been charged with such a plot, anyway.

"Many people think that he put the story out himself to create a new image. He was considered by most people to be closer to Israel than to his own people, almost a collaborator," says (Thassan Khazib, a Palestinian political commentator).

Subordinates say Jabali still wants assurances that he won't be arrested.

But his relations with Israel already seem to be on the mend, and there are signs that the case against Jabali may be dying, although his three police officers, near Bracha, are still in custody.

Three weeks ago Jabali was reported beefing up security around his headquarters for fear that Israeli agents would try to get him. Now he says the Israelis have lost interest.

See JABALI, Page 12

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen  
The Jerusalem Post

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MIDDLE ISRAEL

The post-Zionist century

Dry Bones



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

When, exactly a century ago today, some 200 white-tied, frock-coated delegates from 16 countries greeted Theodor Herzl...

right lunacy, has been realized. In fact, Israel is essentially the very haven for oppressed Jews that its 19th-century architects had envisioned.

navy and air force, all reportedly backed by a well-stocked nuclear arsenal. Finally, that emotionally, physically and mentally healthy "new Jew," which so many Zionists had sought, has emerged.

has resurfaced two centuries later in Israel's diplomatic travails. Thirdly, though Hebrew has developed admirably, its durability has yet to be proven...

they sought to address have been solved, and replaced by new ones. Zionism's major raison d'etre, namely solving the problem of Jewish political plight, no longer exists.



SHABBAT SHALOM

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Two decades ago The Washington Post, whose name many people still utter in nearly the same awed whisper in which they still utter "The New York Times," published a collection of its staff's writings...

The PLO's 'heroic chapters'

the accords..." Gellman and his editor did not see fit to remind the readers of the substance and possible validity of Netanyahu's criticism of Arafat and the PA...

because it doesn't represent a sovereign state. Lancaster mentions it in his story, however, using the occasion for a swipe at Israel: "A positive atmosphere in peace talks encouraged Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to open their political systems."

Media Review & Analysis, for his summary of the Gallup poll results.) CORINNE Whitlatch, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, agrees with Lancaster concerning the responsibility for the lack of democracy in the PA.



By SHLOMO RISKIN

Jerusalem of joy

Parashat Re'eh

"And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in the place that the Lord your God shall choose to be designated in His name." (Deut. 16:11)

Ashkenazi gloss on the Shulchan Aruch, rules that the priestly benediction wherein the kohanim call on the Divine to "lift up His Countenance and bring peace" can be recited in the Diaspora only on the major festivals.

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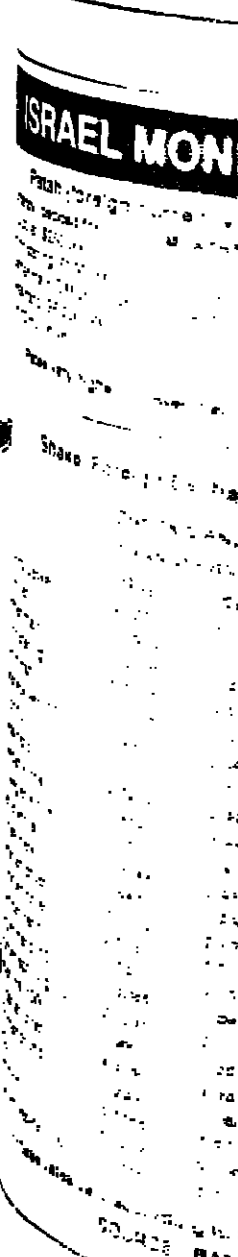
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Table of international stock prices.









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It was a great 'Year of the Tiger'

He may not have been Superman, but 21-year-old Tiger Woods set some mighty impressive records in his first 12 months as a pro

NEW YORK (AP) — The PGA Tour got the best of all possible worlds from Tiger Woods in his first 12 months as a professional. He brought unprecedented attention to golf without making a mockery of the competition. Woods lived up to the hype, but other players rose to the challenge of a supremely confident young man who at the Masters made it seem like he just might win everything.

Woods was the youngest Masters winner, shot the lowest 72-hole score since the tournament started in 1934 and had the widest winning margin in a major championship since the 1862 British Open. And his victory was pushed from the sports pages to the news pages by the fact that Woods, whose father is black and mother is from Thailand, won at a club where, until very recently, only the caddies were black.

Woods' greatest strength and his greatest weakness could be the same thing — he believes he can do anything. Several times that led to big numbers on holes when he tried to hit the hero shot instead of the wise shot. But it is that bit of Arnold Palmer go-for-it-all in Woods that makes him even more compelling. Woods still misses greens long too often and is erratic on short putts.



Jordan re-signs with Bulls

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to five NBA championships over the last decade, agreed Wednesday to re-sign with the team. "I'm delighted to be back," Jordan said, but he said he is not sure how long he will stay. "I'm not going to make any promises," he said.

Garcia's hit streak at 29 in Bosox win

SEATTLE (AP) — Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 29 with a single on the game's first pitch, then homered to start a fifth-inning rally that led the Boston Red Sox to a 9-5 win over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday. Garciaparra had three hits, including his 25th home run. His two-run homer keyed a four-run fifth-inning that put the Red Sox ahead for good at 3-3.

Los Angeles increased its NL West lead to 1 1/2 games over San Francisco. Piazza had a run-scoring single in a three-run first inning against Steve Cooke (9-13), then hit the first pitch thrown in the majors by rookie Jason Johnson for a three-run homer — his 30th — in the second. He added his 31st in the ninth, a two-run shot off Matt Rubele.



Indians' Matt Williams (Reuters)

NATIONAL LEAGUE Dodgers 9, Pirates 5 Mike Piazza homered twice and drove in six runs and visiting Los Angeles picked up its 11th win in 15 games. BATTING — F. Thomas, Chicago, .351; Justice, Cleveland, .341; Salomir, Cleveland, .309; New York, .326; Greer, Texas, .327; O'Neill, New York, .327; W. Clark, Texas, .326.

AMERICAN LEAGUE Texas .053 .000 .000 — 7 14 1 Milwaukee .100 .000 .000 — 17 1 D. Oliver, Patterson (8) and Leyritz, Woodward, Villone (4), Davis (8), A. Reyes (6) and Mathewly, W-D. Oliver, 11-10. L—Woodard, 3-3. HRs—Texas, Greer (23), Milwaukee, Voigt (7).

Table with columns for American League East Division: W, L, Pct, GB, L10, Str, Home, Away, Infr. Rows include Baltimore, New York, Boston, Toronto, Detroit.

Table with columns for American League Central Division: W, L, Pct, GB, L10, Str, Home, Away, Infr. Rows include Cleveland, Milwaukee, Chicago, Minnesota, Kansas City.

Table with columns for American League West Division: W, L, Pct, GB, L10, Str, Home, Away, Infr. Rows include Seattle, Anaheim, Texas, Oakland.

Twins 2, Tigers 0 Bob Tewksbury pitched a five-hitter for his 100th career victory, winning for the first time since June 20 as the Minnesota notched a home victory. Tewksbury (5-10), struck out five and walked one in his fourth complete game this season and second shutout, the seventh shutout of his career. He had been 0-5 with a 7.44 ERA in his previous six starts.

Athletics 8, Yankees 7 Jason McDonald singled and made it home when right fielder Paul O'Neill misplayed the ball into a three-base error, scoring with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning. McDonald lined a shot off Jeff Nelson (3-6) that took one hop and skipped past O'Neill.

Indians 10, Angels 4 Matt Williams homered and doubled to drive in a record-tying six runs during a 10-run fourth inning, leading Cleveland to a road win. Marquis Grissom added a grand slam in the big inning as the Indians overcame a 3-0 deficit. Williams hit a three-run homer, his 28th, off Allen Watson (11-8). Later, he hit a three-run double off

Blue Jays 13, White Sox 2 Joe Carter hit his 202nd home run with Toronto, tying George Bell's club record and reaching 20 for the 12th consecutive season as the Blue Jays won at home. Carter, who drove in four runs, followed fourth-inning singles by Mariano Duncan and Jose Cruz Jr. with his 37th career homer, tying Norm Cash for 35th place on the career list.

Table with columns for Major League Leaders: AMERICAN LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE. Rows include batting averages, home runs, RBIs, etc.

Table with columns for National League: BATTING, RBIS, STOLEN BASES, STRIKEOUTS, PITCHING. Rows include various players and teams.

Table with columns for National League: BATTING, RBIS, STOLEN BASES, STRIKEOUTS, PITCHING. Rows include various players and teams.

Table with columns for American League: BATTING, RBIS, STOLEN BASES, STRIKEOUTS, PITCHING. Rows include various players and teams.

# PM: Korean DMZ not feasible for Golan

By JAY BUSHINSKY

PANMUNJOM, Korea — After going halfway across the Bridge of No Return and walking back to the US and South Korean side of this divided peninsula's demilitarized zone (DMZ), Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he saw little chance of Israel and Syria making a similar arrangement in the Golan Heights.

"The fact that peace is maintained [on the Golan] is due to our military power," Netanyahu said. "Like us, they [the South Koreans] are seeking a way to make all of these fortifications unnecessary," he added, saying he did not foresee any possibility of an imminent solution to Israel's military problem.

This was the second and last day of his official visit to Korea. He is scheduled to return to Israel today after a refueling stop in Baku, Azerbaijan, and an airport meeting there with his counterpart.

Netanyahu wore a tiger-striped army field jacket that seemed identical to the ones used by his hosts, the US Army.

"I kept this one since basic training in the paratroop corps," he quipped, recalling his days as an IDF combat officer.

Netanyahu was the fifth foreign leader and the first Israeli prime minister to visit the 42-year-old DMZ, which was carved across the Korean landscape as part of the armistice agreement that ended the war between Korea's communist north and democratic south.

He saw intricate anti-infiltration fences that stretch for 246 km. from east to west, a Potemkin-type North Korean village that flies the biggest national flag in the world from atop an Eifel-like tower and a rival Republic of Korea banner on this side of the armistice line.

Speaking at a news conference on his return to Seoul, Netanyahu said the "topographical and geographical conditions" are different

in the Golan Heights and the size of the forces deployed there are not the same.

He contended that the best way to formulate a plan to "achieve peace with Syria" was to examine conditions "in our North" rather than to follow the Korean example.

With Sara Netanyahu and his official party, the prime minister took a 45-minute drive in his limousine-studded motorcade from Seoul to the DMZ, spent an hour there and drove back.

He breakfasted with the Korean capital's parliamentary friendship group, lunched with the heads of Korea's four major business associations (FKI, KFSB, KCCI and KFTA), met the chairman of the national assembly, toured the Samsung Semiconductors plant in nearby Ki-Hung City, was interviewed by the Korean Broadcasting System and conferred with the chairman of the Hanwha Group, one of whose trade representatives is based in Israel.

"There is a great synergy between Korea's production, management and marketing ability and Israel's capacity in key aspects of advanced technology," he said at the news conference.

Asked to specify the high-tech areas to which he was referring, Netanyahu listed "software, electronics, robotics, biotechnology and lasers and telecommunications."

"There is no area in which Korea engages to which Israel cannot contribute. We can develop the technology you need," he said.

Turning to Korea's and Israel's common security concerns, Netanyahu said President Kim Young-sam and he discussed the "proliferation of ballistic missiles" and the danger of North Korean missiles being exported to Iran and the subsequent relay of advanced Russian rocket-propulsion technology to North Korea.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara answer reporters' questions after visiting the demilitarized zone between north and south Korea yesterday. (AP)

## ANALYSIS

### Far East trip had mixed results

By JAY BUSHINSKY

SEOUL — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's jet age effort to open up "a golden window" for Israeli trade with the Far East was most successful in the Republic of Korea, less so in Japan and too brief to judge in China.

The Koreans have an affinity for him personally and for Israel in general. One senior diplomat said the public here has been following his career with admiration since the days when as ambassador to the United Nations he had to stand up against all the Arab states except Egypt.

And Koreans see themselves as being in a situation similar to Israel's — constantly threatened

by war and terrorism, dependent on foreign (in their case, American) troops to keep the peace and forced to use their ingenuity to make up for a total lack of natural resources.

Netanyahu's oratorical theme, restated in all of his public speeches here, was that Israel's innovative talent combined with Korea's manufacturing and marketing ability was a natural "marriage."

He used it in Japan, too, but with less dramatic results. The Japanese rightly see themselves as an economic superpower whose industrial inventiveness and technological knowhow has generated a trillion dollar economy. Their need for Israel's high-tech capacity is uncertain if not nonexistent.

Korea's industrial conglomerates are opening trade offices in Israel, its entrepreneurs are entering joint ventures with Israeli partners and its citizens are keen on visiting Israel.

that the Arab oil-producing states no longer can corner the international oil market, cannot impose another oil embargo and are comparatively static consumers compared to Israel's burgeoning yen for imports, traditional policies are slow to change in Tokyo.

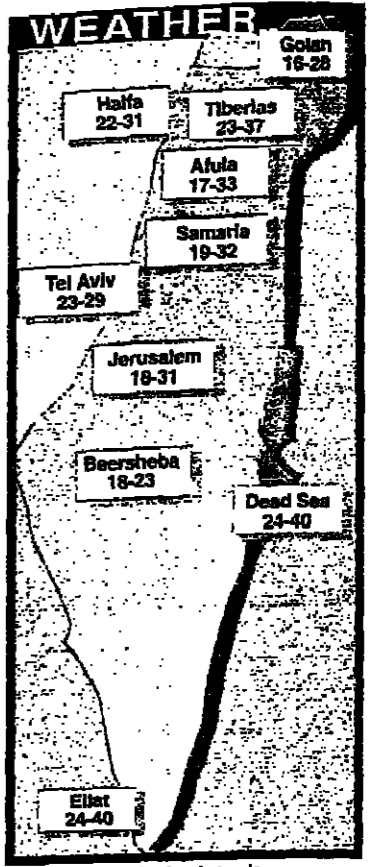
Perhaps the prime minister's sales pitch may have been a bit too shrill for Japanese ears. Perhaps his hastily arranged itinerary seemed incomplete without the customary call on their emperor (he was away on vacation) and without the reassuring presence of their foreign minister (he was abroad).

But had Netanyahu waited one more year for Japan to be able to grant him one of the four annual official visits budgeted for foreign heads of government, there would have been no chance of his potential business partners attending the Prime Minister's Economic Conference in November, 1998. The prime minister evidently

decided that the opportunity to pay an official visit to Korea justified a bold foray into Japan as well, even if the level of protocol was lower than the Japanese might have preferred.

His prognosis of future events in Israel, which is not necessarily shared with the news media, may have prompted him to go while the going was still good. As for China, how much can be expected from an airport stopover? It may have been the harbinger of a much more elaborate visit at a later date.

And above all, Netanyahu managed to get his main message across to all three Asian interlocutors: that Iran's attempt to become a nuclear power and acquire deadly ballistic missiles must be thwarted not only for the sake of Israel's national security, but also in the interest of world peace. His warnings on that score evidently did not fall on deaf ears in Beijing, Tokyo and Seoul.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Shabbat: No change

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F	COND.		
Amsterdam	18	64	24	75	part
Buenos Aires	19	66	25	77	clear
Chicago	19	66	25	77	clear
Copenhagen	21	70	24	76	cloudy
Frankfurt	19	66	20	68	rain
Glasgow	18	66	20	68	rain
Hong Kong	27	81	26	80	clear
Jerusalem	17	63	21	70	rain
London	13	56	21	70	rain
Los Angeles	20	68	21	70	cloudy
Moscow	18	64	21	70	cloudy
Mumbai	15	59	21	70	cloudy
New York	21	70	27	81	cloudy
Paris	17	63	20	68	cloudy
Rome	17	63	20	68	clear
Stockholm	17	63	20	68	clear
Sydney	28	82	22	72	clear
Tel Aviv	24	75	22	72	clear
Toronto	14	57	22	72	rain
Zurich	16	61	22	72	rain

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